



For a Greener Future

Our Sustainable Development Green Plan
2020 - 2025

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Climate change is globally recognised as the greatest environmental and economic threat faced by national governments and individuals.



In addition to the Climate Change Act 2008, the UK Government have passed a law mandating the UK to be net carbon zero by 2050.

Foreword

Acting responsibly and reducing the impact we have on our environment is an important consideration for the Trust, from the way we care for our patients to ensuring we have financially viable and sustainable systems in place. As a large acute healthcare organisation, we are committed to delivering our contribution to the international drive to reduce carbon emissions, and to the broader principles of sustainable development.



A Sustainable Development Green Plan (Green Plan) forms a key part of a sustainable healthcare strategy to ensure services remain fit for purpose today and for the future. It helps us to identify waste reduction opportunities, financial savings and address national priorities such as carbon reduction.

Our Green Plan outlines the key work streams that will contribute to the continual improvement in sustainability performance throughout the Trust. This covers a combination of quick wins and carbon reduction initiatives. Underpinning this will be a Trust-wide staff awareness and engagement campaign.

Richard Crompton
Chair

Ann James
Chief Executive



What is sustainable development?

Sustainable development (SD), sometimes shortened to sustainability, is based on the principle that our actions today should not negatively impact on the future of people, wildlife and our planet. SD is achieved by balancing economic, environmental, ethical and social considerations in everything we do.



“Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present, without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.” - Bruntland Commission

In 2015 the UN launched 17 Sustainable Development Goals, shown below, to achieving sustainability.



In 2014 the Sustainable Development Unit (SDU) launched its Sustainability Strategy (2014-2020) for the NHS, Public Health and Social Care system, which describes the vision for a sustainable health and care system by reducing carbon emissions, protecting natural resources, preparing communities for extreme weather events and promoting healthy lifestyles and environments.

In October 2020 Sir Simon Stevens, NHS Chief Executive launched the 'Delivering a Net Zero National Health Service' report with its aim to be the world's first net zero national health service.

Our Trust sustainability programme

Our Trust sustainability programme contains a priority goal and the objectives we will use to measure success. To show our commitment to sustainability, the Trust has appointed a Board sponsor, Nick Thomas, to oversee this programme and has put in place a governance structure to ensure it is embedded into all areas of the Trust.

As one of the largest organisations in Plymouth, we have a duty to ensure that sustainability is embedded in everything we do. We are committed to reducing our carbon emissions, minimising waste and pollution, and ensuring the best use of resources.

In order to achieve this our 'For a Greener Future' Sustainable Development Green Plan 2020-2025 (our Green Plan) sets our strategy for achieving our sustainability objectives and Trust goal.

Nick Thomas,
Deputy Chief Executive and Board Sustainability Lead



Our Trust goal is to lead in sustainable health and care, in partnership with our community and planet

Our Trust objectives are:

1. Reduce the Trust's carbon footprint by 20% by 2025 (and work towards net carbon zero by 2030)
2. 10% net biodiversity gain by 2025
3. 85% avoidance of waste going to landfill by 2025
4. 70% score in NHS Sustainable Development Assessment Tool (SDAT) by 2025
5. Embed sustainability into every Trust service and activity by 2025



Our Green Plan

Our “**For a Greener Future**” Sustainable Development Green Plan 2020-2025 comprises four modules. Each of the modules is discussed in more detail over the coming pages.



Healthy & Sustainable Organisation



Healthy & Sustainable Care Services



Healthy & Sustainable Environment



Healthy & Sustainable Communities

Healthy & Sustainable Organisation



Our Trust facilities and activities have significant impacts on the health of our staff, patients, visitors and wider stakeholders together with health of the local and global Environment.

For example, turning off artificial lights and making use of natural light has significant health benefits for staff and patients. It also reduces energy use, which creates greenhouse gases that lead to climate change. The impacts of climate change (heat waves, severe cold periods and flooding to name a few) have significant physical and mental health impacts on our staff and patients.

Embed sustainability into Trust facilities and non-clinical activities

Impact areas:

- Trust carbon footprint
- Built environment
- Travel and transport
- Waste and recycling
- Non clinical services and activities (governance, IM&T, site services, procurement, human resources)

Impact targets (by 2025):

1. Reduce the carbon footprint of building energy by 20%
2. Deliver new building and refurbishment projects to net zero carbon standards
3. Reduce the carbon footprint of Trust fleet by 20%
4. Phase out avoidable single use plastics in non-clinical services
5. Increase goods from sustainable sources (local, fair-traded & green certified)

Proposed actions to help achieve the impact targets:

- Optimise our combined heat and power (CHP) system
- Increase on-site energy generation from renewables, such as solar
- Replace petrol and diesel fleet vehicles with ultra-low emission vehicles (ULEV)
- Replace avoidable single use plastics in catering services
- Work with suppliers to reduce packaging and increase green & ethically sourced goods

Healthy & Sustainable Care Services



A sustainable health and care system is achieved by delivering high quality care and improved public health without exhausting natural resources or causing severe ecological damage.

By working in different ways service providers can deliver more sustainable health and care. This is likely to involve designing services with patients and users, focusing on prevention and health improvement, and working with health and social care staff to enhance wellness and independence whilst reducing reliance on non-renewable resources and seeking sustainable alternatives.

Embed sustainability into Trust clinical services and activities

Impact areas:

- Patient and visitor travel
- Clinical care pathways
- Clinical environment
- Clinical waste
- Clinical procurement activities



Impact targets (by 2025):

1. Move care closer to home, with the expansion of outreach services and telehealth
2. Reduce use of diesel and petrol vehicles for the transport of patients, visitors and staff
3. Benchmark key care pathways using the SDU Sustainable Care Pathway Guidance
4. Phase out avoidable single use plastics in clinical services
5. Reduce the carbon impact of anaesthetic gases and metered dose inhalers

Proposed actions to help achieve the impact targets:

- Increase the use of technology enabled care services (TECS), such as telehealth
- Assist patients and visitors to travel to appointments and clinics in more sustainable ways
- Seek alternatives to top 5 high volume avoidable single use plastics in clinical activities
- Appropriately reduce the proportion of desflurane to sevoflurane used in surgery to less than 20% by volume
- Assist patients to return spent metered dose inhalers for green disposal in pharmacy medicines waste

Healthy & Sustainable Environment



Regardless of age or culture, there have been a number of academic studies that confirm exposure to nature not only improves mental health and increases positive emotions, it contributes to physical wellbeing, reducing blood pressure, heart rate, muscle tension and the production of stress hormones.

In a study by Mind, 95% of those interviewed said their mood improved after spending time outside, changing from depressed, stressed and anxious to more calm and balanced. This module will be run by the Trust's Environment Group continuing their much valued contribution to our natural healthcare environment.

Embed social prescribing into clinical services and increase access to nature in Trust activities

Impact areas:

- Wildlife and biodiversity
- Natural environment
- Forest hospital
- Social prescribing
- Health and wellbeing



Impact targets (by 2025):

1. Develop a Board approved Green Space and Biodiversity Action Plan
2. Increase net biodiversity by 10%
3. Increase outdoor wellbeing activities and gardening
4. Increase the use of social prescribing
5. Publish research on the impact of creating a "forest hospital"

Proposed actions to help achieve the impact targets:

- Improve hospital grounds to encourage staff and patients to go outside
- Increase trees, hedges and other habitats (bird, bat & insect boxes) to support local wildlife
- Work with local groups to put together a calendar of staff and patient outside wellbeing activities (nature walks, picnics)
- Increase awareness and use of social prescribing
- Work with local partners to research the health benefits of creating a "forest hospital"

Healthy & Sustainable Communities



Health and social care organisations are at the forefront of action to address the health impacts of climate change and need to adapt to, and prepare for these circumstances. Adverse weather events and climate change are affecting people and services now and this is predicted to increase in the future.

Climate change could have significant implications for the health and wellbeing of the UK population. There are implications for public health, the continuity of health and social care services, the resilience of local emergency services and the impacts on the most socially vulnerable.



Ensure the Trust is resilient to a changing climate and continue to invest in adaptation and mitigation measures

Impact areas:

- Climate change adaptation
- Adapting health care impacts
- Partnerships and collaboration
- Corporate social responsibility
- Social change



Impact targets (by 2025):

1. Develop a Trust Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA) to highlight risks to continuity and resilience of supply
2. Develop a climate change adaptation plan
3. Embed operational climate change resilience into clinical and non-clinical Trust activities
4. Develop collaborative working with other healthcare organisations
5. Develop a social change programme working with local stakeholders

Proposed actions to help achieve the impact targets:

- Embed sustainability into the Trust's Business Continuity, and Emergency, Preparedness, Resilience and Response (EPRR) policies and processes
- Set up collaborative sustainability projects with other healthcare organisations
- Introduce staff volunteering days (beach cleans, local litter picks) in partnership with local charities and environmental groups
- Embed Green champions into teams
- Develop a sustainability pledge and reward scheme for staff

Governance & Engagement

Our sustainability governance structure

Our Trust Sustainability Committee comprises of a representative from targeted corporate functions and clinical service lines with decision making authority, together with a representative from each of our four Sustainability Action Groups.



Our four Sustainability Action Groups comprise a multi-disciplinary group of enthusiastic volunteers, representatives with operational decision making authority and members of our Trust's Environment Group.

Our sustainability performance will be reported in our Trust Annual Report.

Our sustainability engagement & communications

Internally we will put regular information and articles into our internal Trust communications. Staff can sign up for our Trust pledge and reward scheme and join our Green Champions programme.

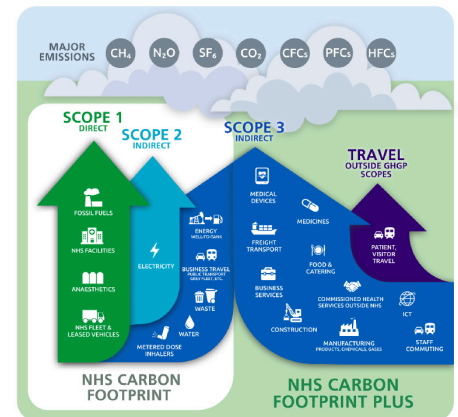
Externally we will work in partnership with external stakeholders and groups, including but not limited to Plymouth Net Zero Carbon Group, third sector, not for profit organisations and local community groups.

Reporting success

We will measure the progress of our Green Plan using the following key reporting tools and will benchmark our success using the NHS Model Hospital sustainability metrics.

NHS SDU Sustainability Reporting Portal (SRP) is used to measure our Trust's carbon emissions in order to calculate our Trust's annual carbon footprint. Our carbon footprint comprises of:

- Scope 1 greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions: Direct emissions from owned or directly controlled sources, on site,
- Scope 2: Indirect emissions from the generation of purchased energy, mostly electricity, and
- Scope 3: All other indirect emissions that occur in producing and transporting goods and services, including the full supply chain.



NHS SDU Sustainable Development Assessment Tool (SDAT) is used to measure our Trust's sustainability performance in the ten key impact areas shown below:

- Corporate approach
- Asset Management
- Travel & Logistics
- Adaption
- Capital Projects
- Greenspace & Biodiversity
- Sustainable Care Models
- Our People
- Sustainable Resources
- Carbon / GHC

The SDAT comprises of over 400 self-assessment questions that are aligned to the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

NHS Model Hospital Sustainability Benchmarking Tool is used to benchmark our sustainability metrics against other NHS organisations in the five key impact areas shown below:

- Energy
- Waste
- Water
- EV parking
- Medical gases



Model Hospital

The results of our Trust's SRP carbon footprint, SDAT sustainability performance and Model Hospital sustainability benchmarks will be reported in the Sustainability Section of our Trust Annual Report.

Action timeline



For further information please visit our website
www.plymouthhospitals.nhs.uk/environment-group

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plh-tr.EnvironmentalGroup@nhs.net



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